

**Meeting God in the Unexpected:
Parable of the Sower**



As in the parable of the unfortunate seeds that fell on the path, the rocky soil, and among thorns, it may feel like our understandings of truth and faith are being snatched away, threatened by troubles, and choked out by the cares of today's world. Yet the readings also remind us that God's Word has purpose and promise way beyond our capacity to imagine. In the disruption, uncertainty and turmoil of our times, how might we be the receptive soil that hears, understands, and bears the fruit of this Word?

WORSHIP

PRELUDE		Michelle Unruh
WELCOME AND PRAYER		Pastor Katherine Goerzen
WDC VIDEO	<i>Tabor Mennonite Church</i>	
GATHERING HYMN	<i>"Open my eyes, that I may see"</i>	No. 517
CHILDREN'S STORY		Jill Litwiller
WORSHIP MUSIC	<i>"Ancient Words"</i>	Capital University Chapel Choir
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Isaiah 55:10-13</i> <i>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</i>	Sharleen Francis
SERMON	<i>"Listening for the Word"</i>	Heidi Regier Kreider WDC Conference Minister
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>"As rain from the clouds"</i>	No. 40 SJ
FAITH TESTIMONY		Nancy Funk
SHARING		Carol Duerksen, Deacon Pastor Rosie Jantz
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER and BLESSING		Pastor Rosie Jantz
SENDING HYMN	<i>"You are salt for the earth"</i> -vv. 1-3	No. 226

*Words for hymns: in bulletin
See attached document for worship transcript*

Sunday, July 19

Come together in spirit to worship God and experience God's love. As we unite our hearts, may we be mindful of God's saving grace, especially as we face difficult circumstances through uncertain times.

We are grateful to Heidi Regier Kreider for preaching and challenging us to listen for God's unexpected voice in our unexpected context and current times.

This Week

Pastor Phil is on vacation July 19 - July 29.

Tuesday, July 21, 10 am: Staff Zoom meeting.

Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 pm: Men's Bible Study. *See announcements.*

Next Sunday, July 26

Next Sunday at our drive in worship service we will continue our Unexpected worship series by focusing on Ezekiel and Dry Bones. Scripture for reflection is Ezekiel 37 and Pastor Katherine will be preaching.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ our community and surrounding communities who are now dealing with more cases of COVID-19. Pray for awareness and responsibility in doing our part in helping to stop the spread of this virus. Also pray for our schools as they prepare to resume in September. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for all WDC congregations, as they discern what it means to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God in their local communities and today's world.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for MMN's short-term service programs that help young people deepen their faith and broaden their cultural perspectives. Pray for program directors as they plan for the coming year with so many unknowns.

Congregational Announcements

Zoom Faith Formation: We invite everyone to connect to a Zoom video call at 10:30am. After about 15 min. of connecting, sharing prayer requests, and a prayer, we will send people to breakout rooms. Zoom connection information is below (you can connect using a smartphone, tablet, computer, or you can even call in using a regular phone). Feel free to contact Pastor Phil if you have any questions. We look forward to connecting in this way!

-Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7022907372?pwd=Ty9JK0Vvb1ZOLzFnaWxwdEwyVXRzdz09>

-Or, open Zoom and type in the following information:
Meeting ID: 702 290 7372 , Password: 2020

-Or, call in by dialing the following number: +1 346 248 7799, then dialing the Meeting ID (702 290 7372) followed by pressing the # key twice.

Zoom Gatherings: If you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting for your small group, faith formation class, or another gathering, please let one of the pastors know and we will get that set up!

Drive-in Church Service: We are planning another "Drive-in" church service for Sunday, July 26 at 8:30 a.m. in the East parking lot. As we did for the service on June 28, please plan to park cars at least 6 feet apart facing West and turn off vehicles during the service. You will be able to hear the service by tuning in to your car radio to FM 107.1 or by listening to the speakers with your windows down.

Men's Bible Study on Romans, Wednesday, July 22, 7 p.m., at John Unruh's farm. All are welcome. Bring your own chair, bible, work book.
~Nate Ashley & John Unruh

Book Study: If you would like to join the discussion of the book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, by Drew G.I. Hart, please contact Pastor Phil for more information. Next discussion will take place via Zoom on August 9 at 7:30 p.m. Beginning August 9 we plan to meet weekly, discussing 2-3 chapters a week.

Because No One Should Go Hungry: The purpose of the Tabor Church Food Pantry is to provide food at no cost for families in need in the Goessel area. If you are struggling during this time of pandemic, know that you are not alone. We are here to help! Please call to set up a time to get your food. 367-2318 - Tabor Church; 747-0408 - Kim Funk; 367-2747 - Janna Duerksen; 367-2437 - Laura Unrau. This is a ministry supported by the Goessel area churches and community.

Conference Announcements

Western District Conference:

-- WDC (Virtual) Annual Assembly is coming up on August 1-2! See Assembly information at: <https://mennowdc.org/2020-wdc-annual-assembly/>. The delegate session will be held August 1 at 9 am. Anyone (no registration required) can participate in the August 1 afternoon webinars - links to those will be posted on WDC's website prior to August 1.

--WDC Assembly Worship on August 2: God will be praised through wonderful music with Texas flair, a story of God's presence by a first-generation immigrant (Sue Park-Hur), a sermon by Danny Carroll R (biblical scholar who specializes in stories of God's people on the move) and a blessing of WDC ministers. The prerecorded worship (in separate English and Spanish versions) will go live on the WDC Facebook page via Facebook Live on Sunday, August 2 at 10 am CT. The link for this special time of worship will also be available before then by emailing kathynd@mennowdc.org. After Sunday morning, the worship video will be available for viewing on the WDC YouTube channel.

--WDC Assembly Virtual Kidz Kamp! There will be craft ideas, snack suggestions, music, stories and more available for elementary-aged kids via a pre-recorded video as part of our virtual WDC Annual Assembly August 1-2. We also ask our kids and youth to take a picture of any artistic responses (poem, drawing, song) to our Assembly scriptures (Jeremiah 29:4 and following; 1 Peter 2: 11-12) for use during the delegate session. Please email them to kathynd@mennowdc.org.

--WDC Assembly Video Snapshots - To learn more about WDC congregations, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces, watch their video snapshots at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6aO7e884ZT5d9gHzyrFAuuccOFYYd_M5 More are added as they become available.

Mennonite Church USA:

--Melanie Neufeld and her husband are pastors of Community Ministry at Seattle Mennonite Church, seeking justice, change and protection for unsheltered people. Get a first-hand look at their ministry in Melanie's blog, "The prick of compassion."
<http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/compassion/>

--Imagine planting a peace church amid a pandemic and nationwide protests – that was the backdrop for Mennonite Church USA's newest church plant in New York. Read more about the Brooklyn Peace Center: <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/nyc-peace-witness/>

--Service Adventure only has five spots remaining for the 2020-2021 term beginning this fall. If you are interested in taking a gap year to serve, live in community, and grow spiritually, contact SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or apply online at MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure.

Mennonite Central Committee: Grounded in the words we read in Philippians 2: 3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others," MCC Central States offices and material resources center is closed to the public indefinitely. The realities of COVID-19 continue to change but the dedication of MCC staff to work for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ continues on. Essential workers will continue to work at MCC, but the rest of the staff will work from home. Your material resource donations (school, hygiene or relief kits and comforters, details at mcc.org/kits) are needed at this time and can be shipped directly to MCC when ordering online or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room towards the east end of the building (121 E. 30th North Newton, KS 67117). In spite of the challenges from COVID-19, the global work of MCC continues. Your financial donations are needed to keep this work going. Give now at mcc.org/donate or by sending checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501. To contact staff with questions please email us at centralstates@mcc.org or call the office 316.283.2720.

Mennonite Central Committee Flatlander Bicycle Ride: The planning committee is going ahead with plans for the 2020 Flatlander ride to be held on September 19. More information about this event can be found at: <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/mcc-flatlander-bicycle-ride>.

Camp Mennoscah:

--You are welcome to visit! Camp Mennoscah is open to families, individuals, and groups for days and overnights. The number of groups on campgrounds is limited and each family/group will have their own bathroom. Canoes are available for use; paddles and lifejackets are checked out and disinfected after use. Contact us at office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290. Spend some time at the river, on the trails, or simply enjoying this sacred space!

--Thank you to the First Mennonite Youth Group of Newton, Kansas! 18 people spent a masked and socially distant week working on improvements on campgrounds. The new swing sets were installed and work began on both the trail bridge and amphitheater renovations. There was a lot of work done by the youth and sponsors, both to keep everyone safe and to make Camp Mennoscah the beautiful and fun place we know it to be. We are overflowing with gratitude!

--Camp in a Box from Camp Mennoscah--The vast majority of Camp in the Boxes and tee shirts have been distributed. If you have not received yours (and we have not been in touch), please contact Camp Mennoscah at office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290. We'll get it figured out!

--Camp Mennoscah's Family Weekend has been cancelled due to the low number of attendees. The annual Camp Sing scheduled for August 8 has also been cancelled. Staff will continue to brainstorm options for events that can be done safely!

Giving at Tabor

While we are not meeting in person, please continue with your faithful giving to the ministries of the church in the following ways:

- 1) Mail your offering to: Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, Kansas 67114
- 2) Start an automatic deposit from your bank account. Contact the church for more information. 367-2318; kfunk@tabormennonite.org
- 3) Use the online bill pay option that your bank has in place. Contact your financial institution if you are not familiar with this process.

Offering and Worship

July 12, 2020

Offering	=	\$ 2,040.00
Worship Link Views	=	64
<i>Views may include more than one person</i>		
Worship Mailings	=	26
Faith Formation Zoom	=	approx. 50

Hymns for Worship

Open my eyes, that I may see

Hymnal: A Worship Book No. 517
Public Domain

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything else will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mind, that I may read more of thy love in word and deed.
What shall I fear while yet thou dost lead? Only for light from thee I plead.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mind, illumine me, Spirit divine!

As rain from the clouds

Sing the Journey No. 40
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As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once barren soil.

As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once barren soil.

As rays from the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once barren soil.

You are salt for the earth

Hymnal: A Worship Book No. 226
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You are salt for the earth, O people, salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace,
Bring forth the kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people, light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

You are a seed of the word, O people, bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain



Please share what you are finding to be grateful for during this time of uncertainty and being apart. Email kfunk@tabormennonite.org or call 367-2318. If no answer, please leave a message.



Tabor Mennonite Church

Prelude: 9:15am Worship: 9:30am
Fellowship Time: 10:30am Faith Formation: 10:45am
891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, KS 67114
Phone: 620-367-2318 email: tabor@tabormennonite.org
Website: www.tabormennonite.org

As God's children and the body of Christ, we are called by God to offer hospitality, healing and hope in the name of Christ.

Pastor: Philip Schmidt Cell: 620-386-0779 email: pschmidt@tabormennonite.org	Associate Pastor: Rosie Jantz Cell: 316-772-8740 email: rjantz@tabormennonite.org	Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen Cell: 316-727-4986 email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org
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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen Duane Duerksen	Marcene Entz Emil Schmidt	Erica Stoltzfus John Unruh
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